

Her personal integrity and work ethic is an inspiration to all public servants, and her willingness to engage all points of view is a boon to all who have strong interest in EPA's work.

So in closing, I want to urge my colleagues—all of our colleagues—to vote to confirm her today so that she can put her robust talents to work for all the American people.

With that, I yield the floor.

#### VOTE ON MCCABE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the McCabe nomination?

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 169 Ex.]

#### YEAS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Lujan	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Grassley	Padilla	
Hassan	Peters	

#### NAYS—42

Barrasso	Graham	Moran
Blackburn	Hagerty	Portman
Boozman	Hawley	Risch
Braun	Hoehn	Romney
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Lummis	Toomey
Daines	Manchin	Tuberville
Ernst	Marshall	Wicker
Fischer	McConnell	Young

#### NOT VOTING—6

Blunt	Paul	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Rounds	Shelby

The nomination was confirmed.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the

Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 68, Colin Hackett Kahl, of California, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

Charles E. Schumer, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Ron Wyden, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Michael F. Bennet, Tim Kaine, Christopher Murphy, Richard Blumenthal, Edward J. Markey, Cory A. Booker, Sherrod Brown, Bernard Sanders, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Colin Hackett Kahl, of California, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 170 Ex.]

#### YEAS—49

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Casey	Lujan	Smith
Coons	Manchin	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Markey	Tester
Duckworth	Menendez	Van Hollen
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Feinstein	Murphy	Warnock
Gillibrand	Murray	Warren
Hassan	Ossoff	Wyden
Heinrich	Padilla	
	Peters	

#### NAYS—44

Barrasso	Cotton	Hawley
Blackburn	Crapo	Hoehn
Boozman	Cruz	Hyde-Smith
Braun	Daines	Inhofe
Burr	Ernst	Johnson
Capito	Fischer	Kennedy
Cassidy	Graham	Lankford
Collins	Grassley	Lee
Cornyn	Hagerty	Lummis

Marshall	Romney	Tillis
McConnell	Rubio	Toomey
Moran	Sasse	Tuberville
Murkowski	Scott (SC)	Wicker
Portman	Sullivan	Young
Risch	Thune	

#### NOT VOTING—7

Blunt	Rounds	Whitehouse
Cramer	Scott (FL)	
Paul	Shelby	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider on the McCabe nomination is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Colin Hackett Kahl, of California, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

The Senator from Maryland.

#### DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2021

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, shortly, we are going to be taking up S. 914, the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act, and I would urge my colleagues to approve this legislation promptly.

The Environment and Public Works Committee reported this legislation by a unanimous vote. We don't get too many unanimous votes here on substantive, important legislation, and we were able to get that because this bill is truly bipartisan.

I want to congratulate the leadership of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Chairman CARPER, for the management of the committee to bring us together, and Senator CAPITO, the ranking Republican member. The two of them set the climate for us to work together to bring out a drinking water and wastewater infrastructure bill. I also want to compliment my counterpart in regards to the Subcommittee on Infrastructure, Senator CRAMER, who is the ranking member—I am the chair—and Senator DUCKWORTH, who is the chair of the Water Subcommittee, and Senator LUMMIS. All six of us worked together so that this Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act really does represent the views of all the Members of the Senate, and it is a bill that is desperately needed by our communities.

Water infrastructure is critically important to our Nation. It is important for drinking water. It is important for how we treat our waste, wastewater. The needs are tremendous. The American Society of Civil Engineers gives us a report card grade of D in 2021. The gaps are billions of dollars a year necessary to bring our water infrastructure up to standard.

This legislation will move us in the right direction. It authorizes \$35 billion of water infrastructure, which is desperately needed in our communities. It will allow us to upgrade aging infrastructure, address the threat of climate

change, invest in new technologies, and help marginal communities in dealing with these needs.

COVID-19 has made the challenges even more dramatic for our communities. Water utilities have incurred additional costs. I think that is quite obvious. They had to deal with the protective equipment for their workers to deal with COVID-19. They had workers who were out as a result of COVID-19. They had to deal with changing the way they operated their business. There was a demand for greater water during COVID-19, just the washing of our hands frequently. It requires us to have access to more clean water.

The ability of our customers to pay their bills was challenged during COVID-19. As we know, American families' incomes were very stressed and are still stressed as a result of COVID-19. The gap between the ability of the public support for water infrastructure and what ratepayers are asked to pay is getting larger and larger. We haven't made the money available from the public side for water infrastructure, and to put more pressure on the rate when customers are already having a difficult time paying their bills is not a viable option. That makes S. 914 even more urgent.

I want to talk about a couple provisions that are included in S. 914 that are bipartisan that I worked on that I think are extremely important parts of this legislation.

One, working with Senator WICKER, we have in this bill a pilot program that will establish 40 grants around the Nation so that we can establish programs to help low-income households. By way of comparison, this is similar to the LIHEAP program that we use to help our low-income families deal with their utility bills for heating their homes and air-conditioning their homes. This will provide similar help for low-income families in dealing with the price of their water bills.

Having been through Maryland and some of our centers, I can tell you that there are many communities where individuals literally cannot afford their water bills. It is an essential utility. We need to do something to fill the gap. So this bill will establish a program so that we can take some of the pressure off of the ratepayers and therefore allow local utilities to be able to use rates to do some of their improvements without adversely affecting low-income families. This pilot program, to me, is long overdue, but I am pleased to see it is included in this legislation.

Another provision that is included in this legislation is legislation that I have authored with Senator CAPITO, the Clean Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Program. The two of us recognize that in the State of West Virginia and the State of Maryland, we have extreme weather events that are affecting our ability to handle drinking water and wastewater. That is true in every State in the Nation. I

could tell you about Maryland and the community of Ellicott City, where they have had two 100-year floods in a period of less than 2 years.

These frequent, extreme weather events are happening in this Nation on a regular basis, and it is putting additional stress on our water infrastructure. The President had a recent summit on climate, and this is one of the issues that were brought up.

Wastewater treatment plants and drinking water systems—we need to increase their resiliency and add that ability. That is what this provision will do by providing grants that will assist in planning, designing, construction, implementation, operation, or maintenance of the facilities.

Stormwater runoff is one of the largest sources of pollutants in our environment. We have over 600,000 miles of rivers and streams in America, 13 million acres of lakes, reservoirs, and ponds. I can speak personally about the impact that runoff has on the Chesapeake Bay, a national treasure. The fastest growing source of pollutant into the Chesapeake Bay comes from storm runoff.

This grant program on resiliency will help all of us plan for how we deal with water infrastructure in a way that can deal with our modern challenges.

Another provision in this bill comes from legislation that was authored by Senator BOOZMAN and myself, the Water Resources Research Amendments Act. This provides help for research so that we can find effective and efficient new ways to deal with water treatment facilities.

In Maryland, we are proud that we have the Maryland Water Resources Research Center at the University of Maryland, College Park, that does this type of research that will help us to the next generation of how we can use technology to help deal with our water infrastructure in America.

The bottom line is that S. 914 is a bill that will help us preserve and provide drinking water to the people of this Nation and deal with wastewater. It is a very important bill for water infrastructure. It is bipartisan. It will be on the floor. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, which is clearly part of building America back better. I hope we can act on this bill this week and send to it the House and get this bill to the President for his signature. I can tell you, our local water systems desperately need the help.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). The Senator from Arizona.

#### PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bipartisan Senate resolution recognizing the thousands of Arizonans and millions more across America who go to work every day to serve their fellow citizens, protect our communities, and make our country a stronger place.

America's public servants work across our uniformed services, as well

as in Federal, State, and local governments, to advance our country's health and safety. If we ever needed a reminder of the importance of our public servants, the past year has provided one. Throughout the coronavirus pandemic and resulting economic downturn, public servants kept us safe, provided care for our heroes, coordinated urgent medical supplies for our communities, and helped keep our small businesses open.

Along our borders with Mexico and Canada, Border Patrol agents tackled challenging conditions to provide security, limit the spread of COVID-19, and protect our communities from criminal activity. At ports of entry, Customs officers worked to maintain cross-border trade and commerce to keep fueling American jobs.

VA employees cared for our veterans and are playing a critical role in delivering vaccines to veterans, veterans' spouses, and caregivers and dependents.

Postal employees continued to deliver the mail, keeping everyday families connected and helping employers remain open.

To all of our firefighters, police officers, public health officials, and teachers, you deserve our thanks every day, but moments of crisis often help to remind us how much we rely on all of you.

When Kingman, AZ, recently experienced a cyber attack, it was local officials, alongside members of the National Guard, who mobilized to contain the damage and get the city back online.

Through these moments of sacrifice and service, these men and women show that public service is not about winning partisan political battles or getting your fame out on cable news. It is about serving a cause greater than ourselves.

In Arizona we are no strangers to dedicated public servants who left their marks on our State and country—from Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to lead the Arizona State Senate and to be appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, to my personal hero, Senator John McCain, who dedicated his life to public service, both in uniform and here in the U.S. Senate.

Beginning this Sunday, America will mark Public Service Recognition Week, and I am honored to again introduce this year's bipartisan Public Service Recognition Week resolution with my friend Senator LANKFORD of Oklahoma.

On the Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management, Senator LANKFORD and I work closely together to strengthen Americans' confidence in our government by making the government work better for everyday Americans. That is a goal we share with all of America's public servants, and I am proud that last year the Senate came together across party lines to approve our resolution and honor public service.